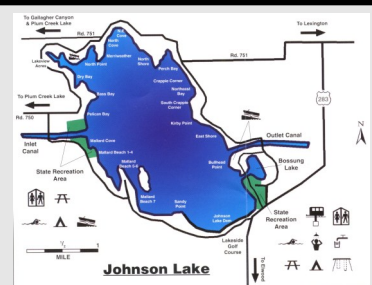
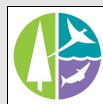


Johnson Lake

2011 Angler Survey Summary

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
Brad Newcomb, District Manager



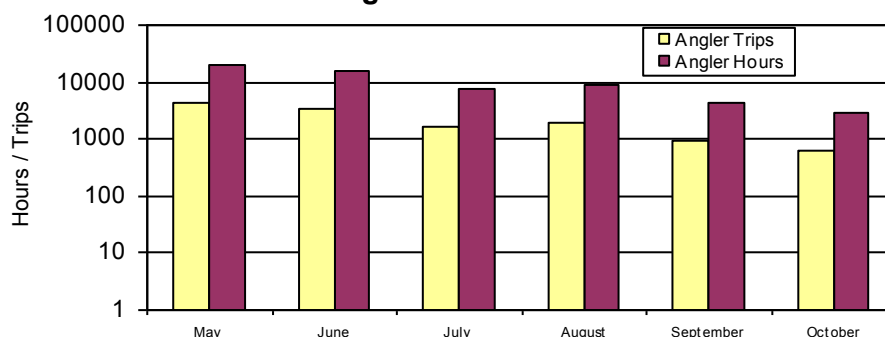
An angler survey was completed at Johnson Lake from May through October 2011. During this time period, angler counts and interviews were completed on 14 weekdays and 6 weekend days each month. Surveys were completed on 111 days with a total of 1,645 angler party interviews.

Angler surveys provide estimates of angling effort, catch and harvest, catch per hour, and sizes of fish caught. The following text and graphs summarize this year's survey information.

Fishing Effort Summary

An estimated 13,322 angler trips were made to Johnson Lake during the six month survey period in 2011. Anglers spent 59,634 hours fishing (27 hrs/acre), with the average trip lasting 4.6 hours. The following Nebraska counties contributed the most Johnson Lake anglers: Dawson (44%), Buffalo (17%), Hall (7%), Gosper (4%), Phelps (4), and Adams (3%). Non-residents made up 4% of all anglers. May had the highest angler use, with fishing pressure declining through October.

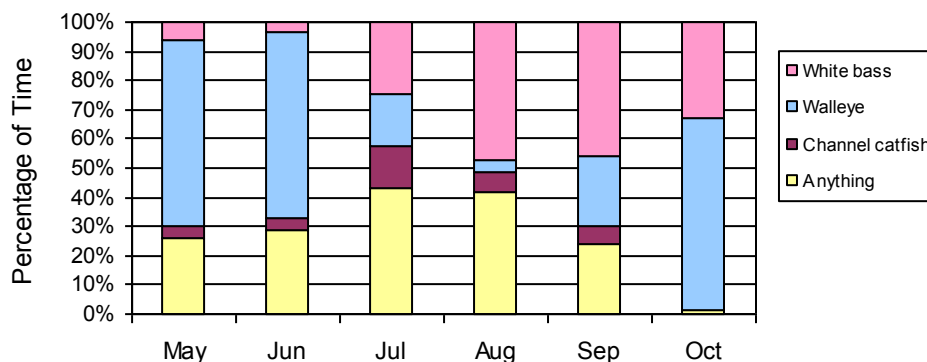
Fishing Effort Per Month - 2011



Fish Species Sought by Anglers

Fishing pressure was mostly for walleye in May and June, then sifted to white bass during July-September. Walleye fishing pressure increased again in October. About 20-40% of anglers fished for anything in most months.

Species Sought by Month - 2011

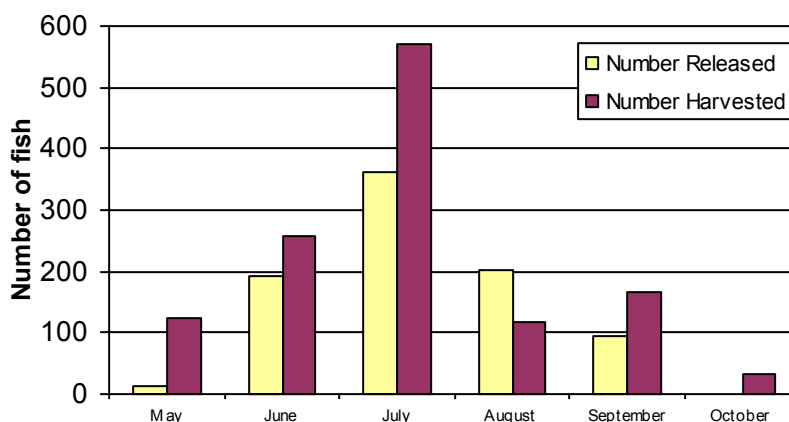


Channel Catfish

2011 Regulations: *No size limit, 5 fish daily bag*

An estimated total of 2,193 channel catfish were caught, with 1,267 harvested and 926 released. There were 170 catfish measured during the survey, with an average length of 18 inches, and range of 8 to 36 inches. The total catch rate for anglers seeking channel catfish was 0.33 fish/hour, with a harvest rate of 0.14 fish/hour. Catfish catch peaked in June and July.

Channel Catfish Caught Per Month

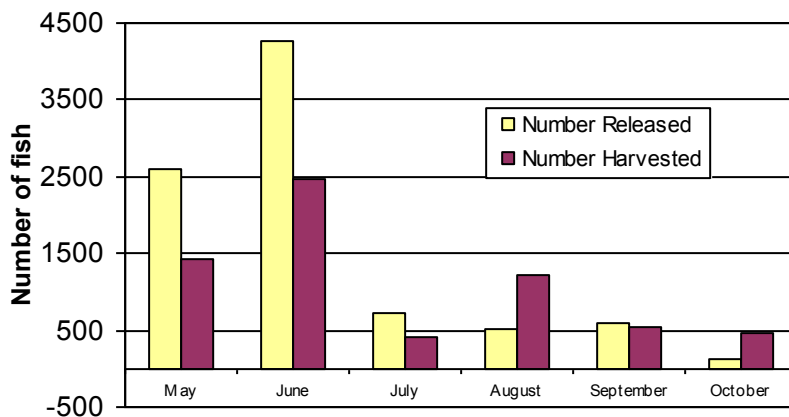


Crappie

2011 Regulations: *No size limit, 15 panfish daily bag*

Estimated total catch of crappie in 2011 was 15,421, with 6,540 harvested and 8,881 released. Crappie anglers caught 4.67 crappie per hour, and harvested 2.33 crappie per hour. Crappie catch peaked in May and June, with fair catches in the following months.

Crappie Caught Per Month



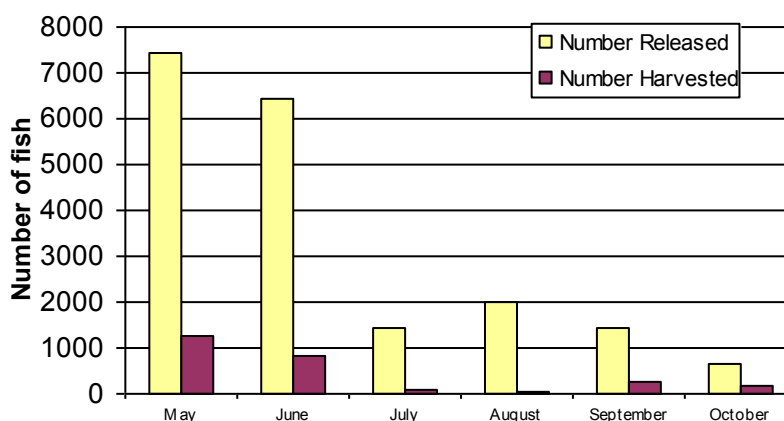
Walleye

2011 Regulations: 15-inch minimum size limit, four fish daily bag limit, no more than one over 22 inches allowed in the daily bag

Estimated total catch of walleye was 22,810 in 2011, with 2,553 harvested and 19,257 released. Walleye anglers had a total catch rate of 1.05 walleye per hour and a harvest rate of 0.07 fish per hour.

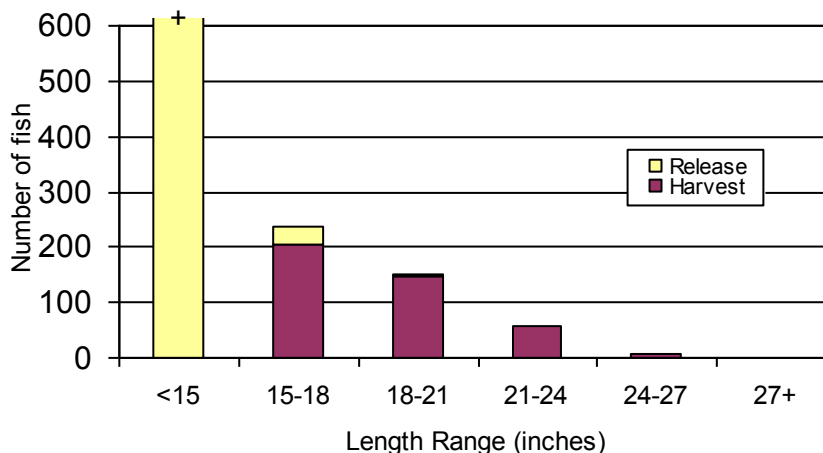
May and June were by far the best months for walleye catch and harvest. Although walleye catch and release continued after June, very few walleye were harvested after June.

Walleye Caught Per Month



Harvested walleye ranged from 15 to 28 inches, with an average of 18.8 inches (420 were measured during the survey). Compliance with the walleye size limit was very good, with no walleye under 15 inches encountered during the angler survey. Walleye from 15-18 inches made up 49% of the harvest and the vast majority of the released walleye were under 15 inches long (99%).

Size of Walleyes Caught by Anglers in 2011

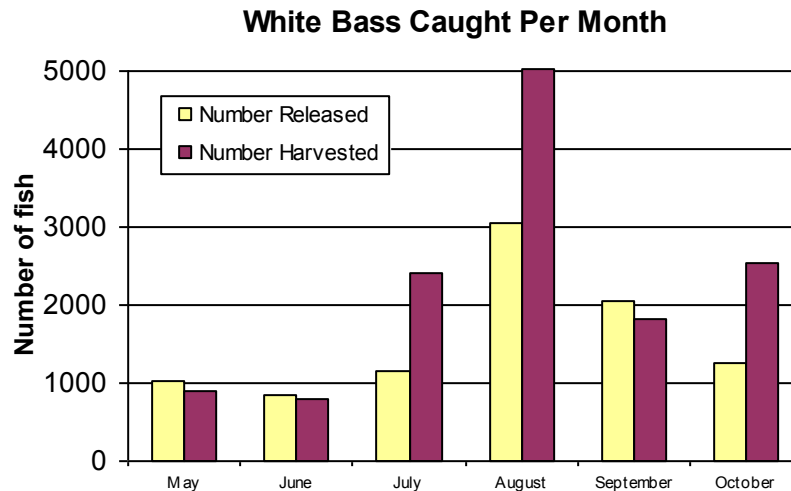


White Bass

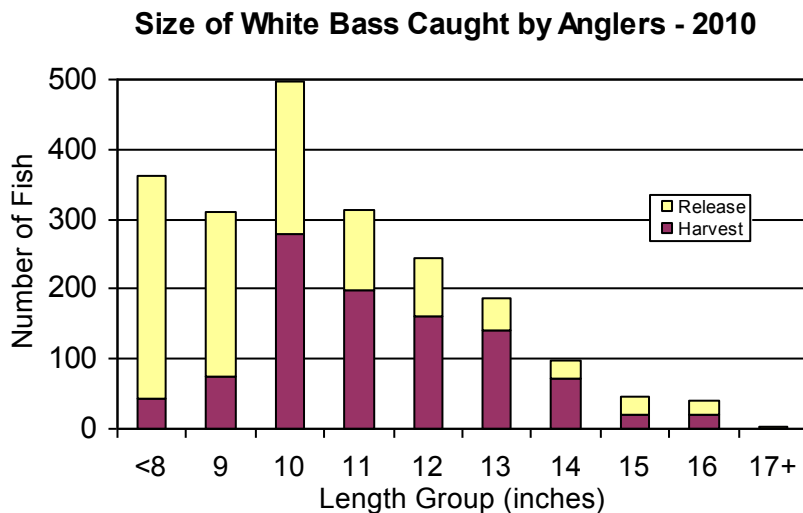
2011 Regulations: 15 fish daily bag, no more than one fish over 18 inches in daily bag

A total of 22,180 white bass were caught in 2011, with 13,273 harvested and 8,907 released. Catch rates for anglers seeking white bass were 1.13 fish caught per hour and 0.80 harvested per hour.

July through October were all good months for white bass catch, with the peak in August.



Harvested white bass ranged from 7 to 18 inches, with an average of 11.3 inches (1,047 measured). Length distribution of harvested white bass was 11% under 10 inches, 63% from 10-12 inches, and 26% over 12 inches.



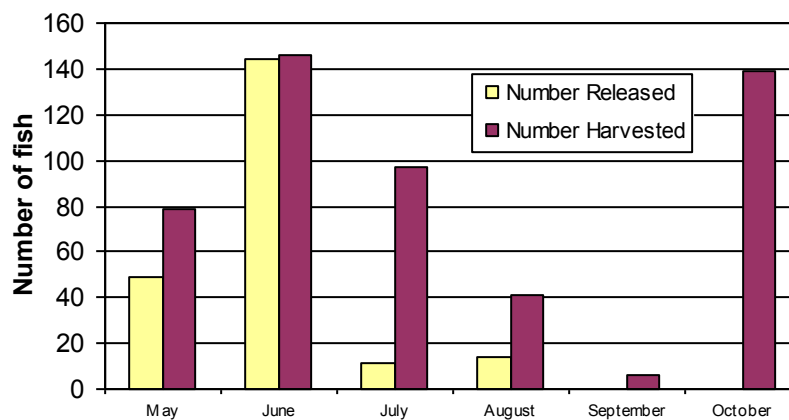
Wipers

2011 Regulations: 15 fish daily bag, no more than one fish over 18 inches in daily bag

In 2011, there were 766 wipers caught, with 548 harvested and 218 released. Harvested wipers ranged from 10 to 24 inches long, with an average of 16.8 inches (69 measured).

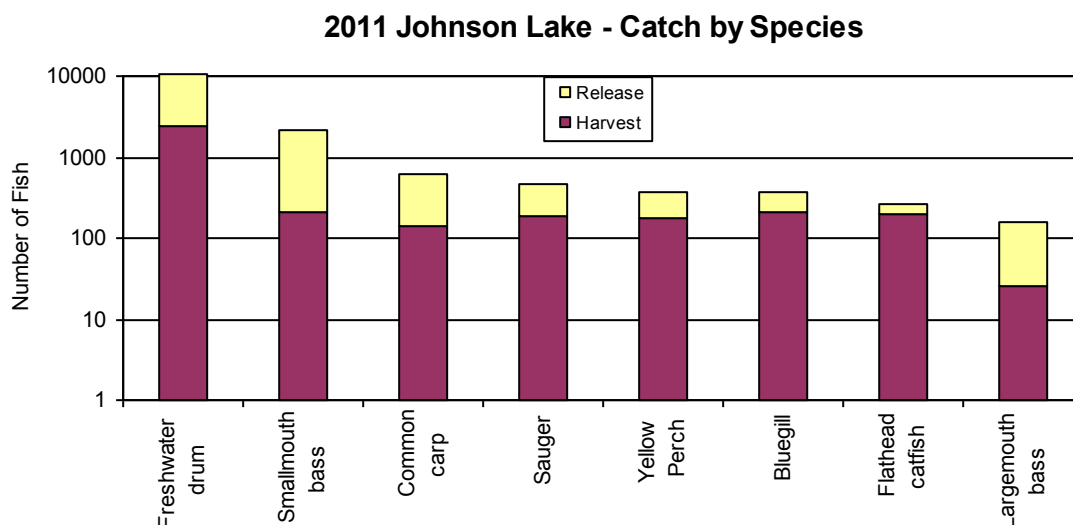
May through July were the best months for wiper catch, with another peak of released fish in October.

Wipers Caught Per Month



Miscellaneous Species

Eight other fish species were well represented in the 2011 angler catch, with freshwater drum the most numerous. Smallmouth bass catch was good, with a high percentage of released fish. Sauger and yellow perch are currently being stocked in the system, and returns to anglers are encouraging.



This survey was the first of a two-year project at Johnson Lake under a cooperative agreement with the US Geological Survey and the University of Nebraska. The 2012 survey is scheduled from April through October. As in 2011, anglers will be surveyed 20 days per month.

Results of all Nebraska angler surveys, as well as fish population surveys, are posted on the Nebraska Game and Parks website (www.outdoornebraska.org) around the first of each calendar year.

For additional information about fisheries management at Johnson Lake, please contact the NGPC North Platte office at 308-535-8025 or by email at the addresses listed below.

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Biologist: Jared Lorensen: jared.lorensen@nebraska.gov